

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

AUGUST 2009

KB4KFT offers up some thoughts at election time



Bill Perkins KB4KFT (center) chats with fellow Hams at the Walton County Emergency Radio Club Foxhunt in May during a break

As we cruise through summer we are also moving towards the August Atlanta Radio Club election meeting. Every year in August club members select a slate of officers to represent them and their interests for another year. This meeting is also a town hall meeting where members can express their concerns over direction and operation of the club. So even if you don't want to vote you should be at this meeting to express your opinions, get feed back not only from your officers but other club members. This year I (Bill Perkins) am running for a second term as President and will keep the team that serves with me: Rob (K14UTY) as Vice President, Bert (KE4FOV) as Treas-

urer, George (K14DSO) as Secretary and Chris (K14YMD) as our Member-at-Large. We are a good team that seems to work together well on a variety of things.

This is not a campaign speech but more of a report on some of the things we have done in that last year and what we'd like to do in the next.

The club is growing again. Though we've had two months of slow growth, the economy certainly plays a part in that, overall we have gained about twenty new members (or 15% increase if you care). Just as important we are not losing folks at the end of their first year. As we continue to be more active this trend should continue. Folks join and stay with a club for a reason - we need to give them reasons to do so.

Meeting attendance is up - we are routinely filling the room at the Red Cross Center monthly, even in bad weather, even just before holidays. This is due to Rob's fantastic job at getting interesting speakers and presentations. Rob does not get enough compliments about his job so next time you see him tell him how he is doing.

And we are having more outings and events. Not necessarily club-wide events, more of those are coming. But
groups Continued...Page 7

Ellijay Hamfest coming Saturday Aug. 8th

This coming Saturday, August 8, will be the Ellijay hamfest, which touts itself as the "biggest little hamfest in Georgia". It could just as easily brand itself as one of the friendliest, or as a delightful respite from the oppressive mid-summer heat of the flatlands. No doubt, there are a lot of reasons to make the trip this weekend to the Ellijay Lions Club, at 1729 S. Main Street, but in case you're still undecided, here's a couple more reasons:

This year's fest will feature two special speakers. At 9:00 AM, RON SHAVER, W4VM, will chat about DSTAR, the new Fort Mountain DSTAR setup, and will offer a short demo with a portable UHF DSTAR repeater. Following

(Continued on page 7)

August equals Club Elections - See you Thursday August 6th!

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

John Talipsky N3ACK
385 Madison Chase Dr
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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Come join us for Lunch on Fridays!



Join us every Friday from 1230PM-130PM at the Old Chamblee Bistro! 5480 Peachtree Rd next to the Chamblee Police Department. It's a great sandwich stop on Fridays.

Try checking into the 10-10 M&M Net!

Purpose of the weekly net is to promote good operating practice on the 10 meter band. The Chapter also has the best 10 meter ragchew or afterglow in the state of Georgia. When the chapter operates our weekly net please do not feel rushed in or out. Its all about working your radio on the 10 meter band. The weekly chapter net is a controlled net but we take check in's as they come in. The Margarita & Martini 10-10 chapter is providing solar cycle 24 data and live solar cycle 24 activity forecast We meet every Saturday night at 8pm EDT / 00:00 UTC (Summer) and 8pm EST / 01:00 UTC (Winter) on a frequency

of 28.330mhz USB. Our chapter net can be found online also at NETLOGGER and look for the 10-10 Chapter Margarita and Martini Net (GA) Format for check ins as follows. Please state your callsign once. When recalled, name, QTH, and M & M Number. Band conditions are touch and go at the present but sporadic E events over the past year have been excellent with contacts all over the world! This net is open to all stations. If you would like to receive a 10-10 number just ask the acting NCS on how to get it. Net time MAY start 1 hour earlier in the summer depending on conditions for DX check ins so please make note!

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2009

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2009 (Aug 2, 2009) -- More than 300 lighthouses in more than 51 countries -- from Argentina to Wales -- will be on the air for 2009 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group (AARG) in Scotland. The event, held for the 11th year in a row, takes place Saturday, August 15 0001 UTC-Sunday, August 16 2359 UTC. While not a contest, the ILLW is more of a QSO Party and Amateur Radio demonstration. The ILLW aims to raise public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and the need for their preservation and restoration, promote Amateur Radio and foster international goodwill. Stations at more than 40 US lights are expected to be on the air for the event, and several stations will identify with special event call signs. Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself; a Field Day-type setup at or adjacent to the light is sufficient. More information about the event, including a registration form, is available on the ILLW Web site at http://illw.net/2009_list.htm

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm
2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Braselton, GA

1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months
Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53
Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or
w9qo@arrl.net Fee \$10
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson
Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS
MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and
the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at
the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,
5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

Marietta, GA CAVEC

Central America VEC
3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Avenue
Contact: David Still WB4RRD
wb4rrd@gmail.com

Lawrenceville, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge #131
465 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville, GA
Contact: Frank Saucinas KF4TQV
kf4tqv@charter.net

Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH
cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

Sunday Night Net: All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

8 Aug 2009

Ellijay Amateur Radio Society (EARS)
<http://www.ngamtn.com/w4hhh/> **Talk-In:** 145.170 -600 kHz (PL 100)

15-16 Aug 2009

Alabama Section Convention (Huntsville Hamfest)
Huntsville Hamfest Association & Huntsville Amature Radio Club
<http://www.hamfest.org> **Talk-In:** 146.940 (no tone)

3 Oct 2009

LaGrange Amateur Radio Club
http://www.lagrangeradioclub.org/LaGrange_Hamfest_Flyer_2009.pdf
Talk-In: 146.70(-) (PL 141.3)

1 November 2009

Alford Memorial Hamfest
Lawrenceville, GA

14 November 2009

Alabama State Convention - Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

LxPedition report from K4ESA - July 4th weekend

Fun filled day of radio play.

Worked Ian on the 145.470 this morning while I was having coffee and building 6 meter yagi. Also Worked on stringing the 10 meter dipole between some trees. Little did I know that it would be 12 hours before I could talk on it.

Then did talk in for KD4UKW, Andy on his way to Mt Michell. He stopped in and worked on his 440 Quagi for a few hours, while I finished the yagi for six and put it up. I tried to talk to Andy on the way north, but only heard him a short way.

I flipped over to 6 on the FT-857 and worked a group in EL-96 in SFL. The worked a Cayman Island on 6. The South FL guys were in there for a while, so I finished hanging the 10m dipole to find 8to1 SWR??? worked great last time I was at the cabin? Tuner would not do anything with it. While checking in with the MFJ-259, I dropped the coax and the PL-259 landed on a rock and bent it where it would not screw on. Cheap, low bid connectors, what you get for a buck I guess.

So since I needed more coax to put the 80m up for NVIS Sat night, I cut the coax to shorter length, put new new end on it and checked it again to find 8to1 swr still. Dropped it down.....Oh, did I tell you that 6 opened to Texas, then CA? The CA stations were lined up calling me! Worked 7 new grids out west, One of the ops told me I was the loudest signal up and down the band. Guess 1516 ft tower was working! So 6 is open and I am talking breaks to sort out the 10m, cause I know it is open also.

I find the center of the coax connection to the dipole was broken as we put it up I guess.

Fixed that at around 9:30, sent out an email to groups to try me on 28.335 at 10:15. then back to 50.150 for the 10:00 Huntsville AL net on 6 M. I can make this net most nights from the house. I thought 6 was dead, but worked some west TX leading up the net, Checked in to the

net, YEAH for the little 3 ele yagi.

Then worked KC4TVZ Todd in 73 de Bob,
Flowery Branch on ten, And some South FL on ten before returning to six K4ESA EM74qc
to find it open some more. Finally came down to the cabin for shower and sleep at 11:15.

PSK on display at Aug Sunday Tech Session

The monthly meeting of the "Second Sunday Tech Session" will be Sunday, August 9th at 3:00p in the main conference room at the main administration building of Dekalb Peachtree Airport (PDK) in Chamblee. The building is at the end of the main entrance to the airport - just follow the road off Clairemont down to the cul-de-sac parking lot at its end. The conference room is in the building marked "Epps". Come in the main entrance take the stairs at the left, the room is on the left at the top of the stairs - room 227. Talk-in (unofficial) is on the 146.820 machine (minus with 146.2 PL) Most times simplex 146.520 is also monitored.

This month we will have George (K14DSO) doing APRS, 2meter packets and related subjects. George did an APRS/packet presentation last

(Continued on page 5)

W4DOC REPEATER NEWS & NOTES

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/ Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B

1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D

D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B

1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

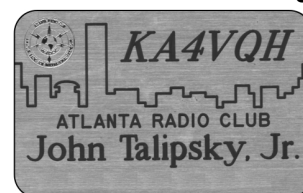
The Signman of Baton Rouge



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!

PO Box 84107
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107 USA
(225) 757-1545 Phone
225-208-1545 Fax
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[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)



Conversational D-Star

I like a good conversation. If talking with other hams and learning about new things is something that you enjoy too, then you'll like D-Star. It may just be the best of all the transmission "modes" at the art of conversation.



Bert Bruner
KE4FOV

Consider, for a moment, what often happens when you decide to talk to somebody on the radio. Unless it's drive time or you have a scheduled QSO, it's sort of a random event. You fire up your VHF or UHF FM radio and call CQ on a local repeater. Maybe you get lucky and find somebody there. More often though, you just find dead air. So after a few minutes, you switch to another repeater ... just as the one other guy in town who also wanted to talk switches from that machine to some other for the

same reason

Ah, but we have IRLP you say. So you punch up your favorite node and now you have dead air on repeaters in two cities.

O.K., let's go to plan C – crank up the HF gear. No doubt, you'll find somebody ... if you're on the right band at the right time. You might find somebody who wants to chat or you might find somebody who just wants to record another contact. And then the band conditions change.

Or you could use D-Star.

It starts out the same. You key up and call CQ or announce your call sign. Then you either get lucky and somebody responds or you hear silence. Plan B, is to connect to another repeater or reflector just like with FM and IRLP. The results are likely to be the same ... until you remember www.dstarusers.org.

That's where you can see who's on what repeater or reflector. Then all you have to do is link the local repeater (or your DV-Dongle) to the remote repeater or reflector where you know there are other hams listening or already involved in a QSO.

It's so cool, it's almost magic. Even if you're the only ham in town who wants to talk now, if there's somebody else almost anywhere on the planet, you can find them!

If you enjoy talking to people in other places and hearing different perspectives on things, you can easily do that with D-Star. If, for example, you just want to talk to somebody in Alaska or Manhattan or London or Perth, you're more likely to be able to zero right in on another ham in one of those places and be able to contact him with D-Star than with any other mode.

With about 10,000 users world-wide, there are not as many D-Star hams as there are in some of the other niches of ham radio, but with the capability it provides, that's well above "critical mass". D-Star is here to stay.

Have a look at <http://www.dstarusers.org> and think about the possibilities. It's a tremendous tool. See what's out there.

It's true that there's only one manufacturer selling radios in the U.S. It's kind of expensive to get started, but it's a much lower investment than HF and you can do incredible things with D-Star.

If you have any questions about D-Star, post them on the ARC yahoo group or send them directly to me at KE4FOV@Bruner.us.

In an upcoming column, I tell you more about D-Star specific groups and ways to get information and meet other D-Star hams.

Bert Bruner

Second Sunday....

(Continued from page 4)

year and I can say is it one of the best I have ever seen. I did not really understand APRS routes till George diagrammed them interactively. Everyone said it was the most informative APRS session ever so I must not be too far out.

Also, George is just back from the first attempt to pass a "golden APRS packet" from end to end on the Appalachian Trail and will probably be open to questions on that subject.

In keeping with our goal of "hands on instead of lecture" we will be doing packet radio and APRS in the room and around the building. If you don't know how to set your radio up bring it on and we'll figure it out. I will have four 2meter mobile antennas but lots of power.

Some of the crowd
at the Old Chamblee Bistro
Every Friday for Lunch



**I started a Ham twitter group.
The twitter id is Atl_Hams.**

James K4KQQ

Build your own Coax Balun

This type of balun is to be found in most textbooks and many aerial designs.
The balun is a quarter wave of scrap coax alongside the feeder (a pipe will do).

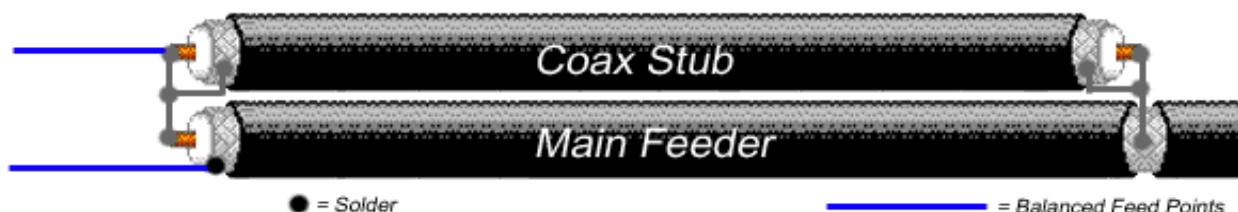


Illustration by G4TUT. Not to scale

The feeder inner is connected to the dead coax braid. The two Blue lines represent the 50 ohm balanced feed points. The dead coax is what it says, a shorted-out at both ends but that could even be copper pipe of the same diameter. It is connected to the feeder a quarter wave back from the aerial where the braids join together. At the aerial end the dead coax is connected to the feeder's inner.

This works by making the aerial connections look "balanced", as the +/- voltage phases appear to radiate equally from both halves of the balanced quarter wave lines and hence cancel. The 2 balanced folded quarter waves look like a half wave where the center is at RF ground and therefore can be connected to the feed coax outer without any RF left on the outer of the coax skin.

This tech tip and others can be at <http://www.southgatearc.org/techtips>

KB4KFT...

within the club are doing things together and these are available club members who want to participate. Field Day, Outings in the Park, Second Sunday Sessions, and LxPeditons all over the place, Friday lunches, meals before meetings, and so on. If you want to do something, invite some other club members, put a note on the Yahoo group, and become an event! We are also becoming more involved in other clubs and their events are becoming available to us. No club should be an island, we were for a while, that is changing. The club just held a trial field-day, first one in maybe fifteen years. Interest was high, turn out was good for the first, next year we will find a better (cooler, drier) location so everyone can at least come by and see what is going on. And PLAY RADIO, we are a radio club after all.

This year's hamfest was one of the best attended the club has done in probably ten years. We ran out of "2009" tickets and started using tickets left over from last year and were getting ready to start using tickets from even earlier years. In part this was the John's (Talipsky fa-

ther and son) and their dedication to the hamfest. But according to younger John also because of the excitement within the club - excitement is contagious and as a club we are generating some again.

Bert (KE4FOV) is making progress towards turning the Atlanta Radio Club hamfest into The Atlanta Hamfest, we did get some other clubs involved this year and will be looking for more participation next. Ask Bert what's up on this front - this is his favorite HAM related topic right now (that and D-Star). George is rooting in the archives. The club is almost a 100 years old, the amount of historical documents, photos, newsletters and so on in amazing. Some of the documents are too. We are hoping to start putting together a 100 year CD loaded with this stuff... more on that later. The old newsletters are fun and interesting to read, concerns of 1949 are about the same as concerns today (except much less SSB, not even a mention of digital modes!).

What's coming up? The repeater system is getting old, creaky, and in places is just plain broken. Chris

(KI4YMD), Penn (K4PE) and Robin (AA4RC) are working on a plan to modernize and upgrade the system. We've had several meetings and are gathering information. Hopefully there will be a plan to submit to the club in a month or two. More on that later.

We want to have the best analog and D-Star repeater systems in the state. EchoLink may be coming as well as IRLP. A 10 meter repeater is being discussed. And possibly a 900Mhz repeater that may become part of a linked 900MHz system for north and central Georgia (talks continue on this one). The club currently owns two operational D-Star systems and is encouraging folks to start using more D-Star.

That is part of what is going on - space is limited in the newsletter. Do make it a point to come to the August meeting, express your ideas, vote - run for office if you want - nominations can be made that night from the floor. The club belongs to the members, is only as active as the members in it are active. Your club is here for you as long as you are interested in it.

Ellijay Hamfest coming Saturday Aug. 8th

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Ron's talk at 10:00 AM, GREG ABERNATHY, AI4UD, an EARS club member, will provide a presentation on Lighting & Grounding for the ham shack.

Ron was first licensed in 1993 and has enjoyed many aspects of the hobby including DXing, HF contesting, Packet, ATV and most notably, Repeaters. He has also taught several Technician and General Licensing classes. He is past president of the North Alabama Repeater Association, and the Alabama Repeater Council. He operates the 147..10 Analog and W4WBC D-Star along with several UHF and Club Repeaters in Huntsville. His cur-

rent primary focus is with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SouthBears) Communications group. He has been very active in D-Star since 2006 and has presented forums at Huntsville, Orlando and Dayton Hamfests. While these forums are often very detailed and technical, Ron is known for his desire to help new users get the most out of D-Star operation; from the minimum quick start to the power user tips and tricks. Ron lives in Huntsville Alabama with his wife Sandie: KE4LRX and daughters Emily: KF4SUV and Kelley KI4IAW.

Greg is a Electromagnetic's Engineer, graduated from Auburn University in 1985. A National Associa-

tion of Radio and Telecommunications Engineer (NARTE) Certified Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Engineer (NCE) since 1990. A Professional Engineer in the state of GA since 1995. Amateur Radio operator since 2007 (Extra Class), Experienced in military and commercial design, test and analysis in the fields of High Speed Signal Integrity, EMC, ESD, EMP, Lightning, RF and photonics. Authored and Co-Authored 4 US patents and 2 European patents.

Sounds like a couple of excellent forums, huh? I hope to see a bunch of you there. Gates open for general admission at 7AM. Talk-in 145.170(-)PL 100. <http://www.ngamtn.com/w4hhh/>

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MEETING NOTICE - THURS AUG 6, 2009



TH F6A



Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate EVERY DAY! The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

KENWOOD
Listen to the Future